

THE AMERICAN SOUND

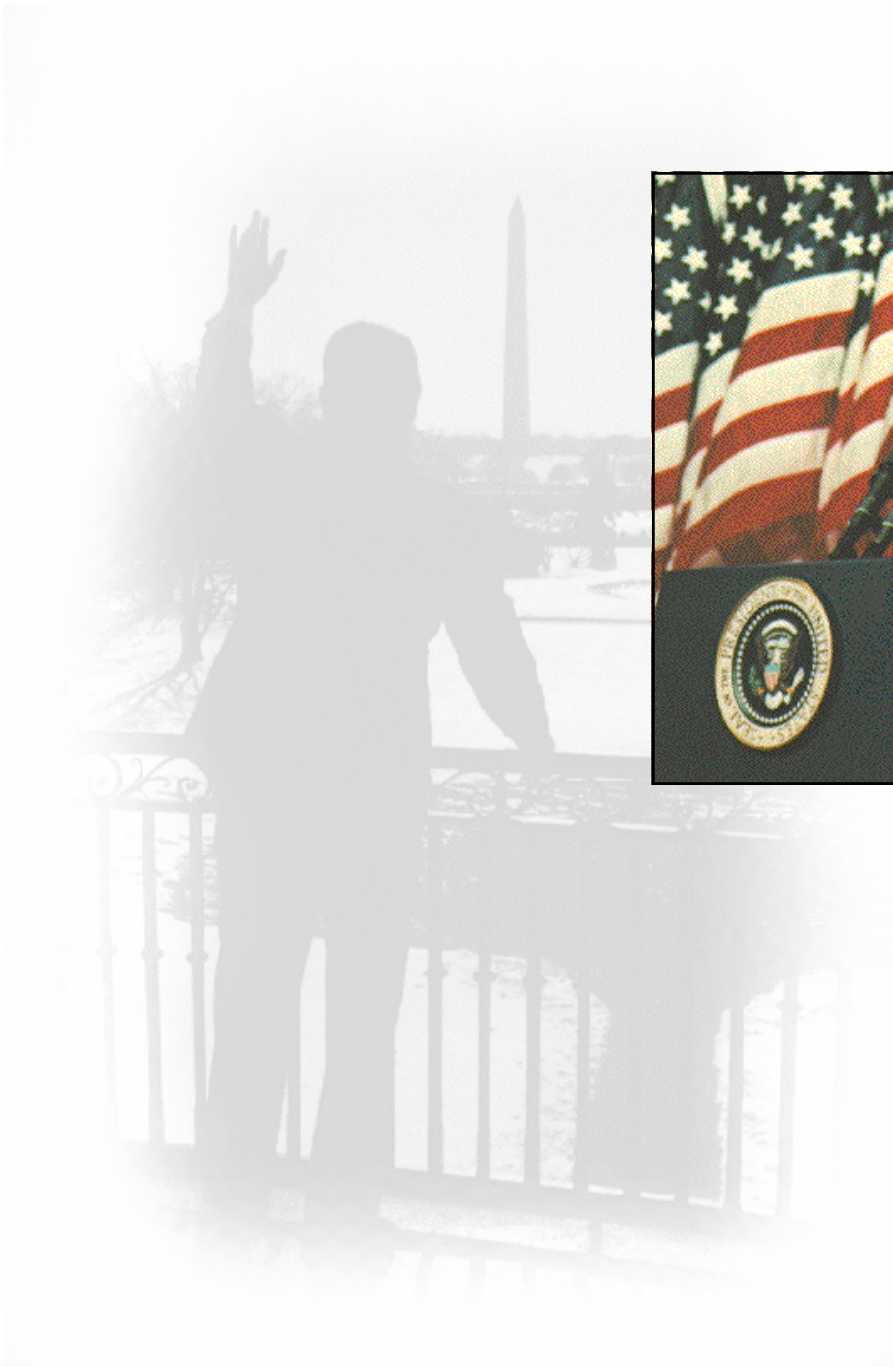
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GOVERNMENT DOESN'T CREATE JOBS AMERICANS DO

FEATURING ARTICLES BY:
SEN. JOHN CORNYN
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REP. RIC KELLER
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REP. PAT TOOMEY



“Now we hear again the echoes of our past: a general falls to his knees in the hard snow of Valley Forge, a lonely President paces the darkened halls, and ponders his struggle to preserve the Union; the men of the Alamo call out encouragement to each other; a settler pushes west and sings a song, and the song echoes out forever and fills the unknowing air.

It is the American sound. It is hopeful, big-hearted, idealistic, daring, decent and fair. That’s our heritage, that is our song. We sing it still. For all our problems, our differences, we are together as of old, as we raise our voice to the God who is the Author of this most tender music. And may He continue to hold us close as we fill the world with our sound – sound in unity, affection, and love – one people under God, dedicated to the dream of freedom that He has placed in the human heart, called upon now to pass that dream on to a waiting and hopeful world.”

President Ronald Reagan
January 21, 1985

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Anything We Can Do to Help?

REP. DEBORAH PRYCE
&
REP. JOHN BOEHNER

It's an election year and there is talk from all corners about the state of the economy: job gains and losses, the stock market going up and down, government and its role in the marketplace. We are told what government can do for us and what it should do to help create more jobs. We believe it is important to remember that government best serves the country when it returns power and resources to Americans, enabling them to chart their own course.

In the last issue, we began to develop a governing philosophy of *The American Sound*. Conservatives believe that government should only do a few things for people, but it should do those things well. In other words, we are defining ourselves in practical terms, and encouraging liberals to do the same, in the belief that this will open areas of political consensus.

One such area is economic policy. The great lesson of the last several decades is the importance of encouraging the private economy. No agenda, whether liberal or conservative, can move forward in recessionary times; everything we want to accomplish for education, health care, national defense, the environment—whether we intend to use public or private means to accomplish it—depends on sustained prosperity. Even those with a redistributionist agenda should acknowledge that there must be wealth to redistribute; and even those who are not normally friends of the private sector should recognize that it will produce more if the government stimulates rather than punishes growth. That is why both sides of the political spectrum should be interested in reducing the cost of government on the private sector, either by targeted regulatory or liability reform or tax cuts.

Tax relief is one way government can empower Americans and it is an integral part of an overall strategy to encourage job creation and economic growth. Passing three tax relief measures in the past three years has helped American workers, investors, entrepreneurs, and small businesses by putting more money into families' pockets and encouraging businesses to grow and hire more Americans.

The cumulative benefit of these three laws for family budgets and business investment is enormous. Under these new laws, 109 million American taxpayers will see their taxes decline by an average of \$1,544 and 23 million small business owners will

save \$2,853. Tax relief is essential to creating job opportunities for American workers and incentives for businesses, both large and small, to invest in new equipment and hire new employees. Recently released economic data only confirm this.

In the month of January, 112,000 new jobs were created—the largest monthly increase since December 2000—and 366,000 jobs have been added over the last 5 months. The American economy grew 6.1 percent at an annual rate in the second half of 2003, the fastest 6 month growth rate in nearly 20 years.

Furthermore, January's 5.6 percent unemployment rate is now below the average of the 1970s, 1980s, and 1990s.

Manufacturers' reports of increases in new orders and business activity are as widespread now as at nearly any time in almost 20 years. With strong sales and improving profits, companies have been hiring more and more workers, and are likely to continue doing so in the days and months ahead.

While tax relief is important to generate economic growth, it is only one of many things we need to do. Now is the time for Congress to think of new ideas that will help foster job creation, which in turn will help solve some of the other long term challenges facing America.

Rising health care costs are the No. 1 concern of the nation's No. 1



Representative John Boehner speaking on Capitol Hill after an Education & Workforce Committee hearing.



Representative Deborah Pryce addresses the media from the steps of the Canon House Office Building.

job creator: our small businesses. In fact, during the 1990s, small business net job creation fluctuated between 60 and 80 percent of all jobs created. There is a small business solution that Congress needs to pass now to address concerns about jobs and rising health care costs.

By promoting Association Health Plans, we can help to decrease small business health care insurance costs by up to 30 percent and reduce the number of uninsured by millions, while avoiding increases in the deficit or costs to the taxpayer at the same time. These small business plans will also help create jobs in the small business sector because entrepreneurs will have more resources to hire workers, purchase new equipment and otherwise expand their businesses.

Two-thirds of America's uninsured work for a small business, own a small business, or are dependent on someone who works for or owns a small business. These plans would simply allow small businesses to join together through their national trade associations to sponsor the same quality health insurance currently offered by Fortune 500 companies, labor unions and the federal government. Passing this small business solution would be an important victory for American workers.

In this issue of *The American Sound*, Senators and Congressmen detail other new ideas and plans for building on the success of our jobs and growth agenda to help create even more job opportunities for Americans. Together, we display a vision of a government that enables and empowers Americans to pursue their dreams of prosperity on their own terms. We invite readers from across the political spectrum to consider whether joining us in measures like these will advance their own particular agenda for helping America.

johnboehner.house.gov/americansound/

The Value of Free Trade and Democratic Globalism

SEN. JOHN CORNYN

January marked the tenth anniversary of one of the most significant economic agreements in modern history—the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA). Today, in Mexico, Canada, and America, the success of a decade of NAFTA provides us with a great example of the positive benefits of free trade, an example that I believe should guide our future trade policy.

NAFTA was a fulfillment of the longstanding policy of the United States to negotiate agreements that reduce foreign trade barriers, increase export opportunities for American businesses, and create jobs for American workers. In the ten years since NAFTA went into effect, total trade among the three countries has more than doubled, from \$306 billion to \$621 billion. And exports from the United States to Canada and Mexico grew from \$147 billion to more than \$260 billion. As a result of its passage, along with the World Trade Organization's tariff cuts in the 1990s, American families all across the nation can purchase goods at more competitive prices—saving the average family of four \$1,300 to \$2,000 each year.

At the time NAFTA went into effect, some claimed that it would bring about a major industrial decline in America and create millions of lost jobs. But in fact, the opposite is true: our national manufacturing output soared by 44% in the 1990s, employment grew by over 20 million jobs by 2000, and private sector and manufacturing workers saw their wages increase dramatically.

I strongly believe a vibrant free market that values innovation and competition is one of the greatest foundations of American success. For consumers in all three countries, NAFTA has provided real and tangible benefits.

The benefit of free trade to American consumers is only the most prominent benefit of a pro-market policy. Even as free trade brings our economy more competition and lower prices, it encourages higher living standards, lower costs for business, and in turn translates to greater consumption and investment—making our national economy resilient, competitive, and strong.



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Flags of the world.

(Continued on page 17)

Addressing the Flaws In Our International Tax Rules

SEN. CHUCK GRASSLEY

We have some good news for manufacturing coming out of the Senate Finance Committee. Last October, the Finance Committee voted 19 to 2 in favor of the Jumpstart Our Business Strength (JOBS) bill, which will cut taxes on U.S.-based manufacturing income by 3 tax rate percentage points. This cut does not extend to manufacturing conducted overseas. In addition, the JOBS bill contains international tax reforms that are directly targeted to help U.S.-based manufacturers, which will enhance their international competitiveness. Ironically, this bill grew out of a trade dispute with the European Union.



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For many years, our tax laws have contained special provisions that reduce the rate of tax on income derived from exporting goods manufactured in the United States. These provisions are known as the Foreign Sales Corporation regime (FSC) and its successor, the Extraterritorial Income (ETI) regime. The European Union challenged these provisions within the World Trade Organization. The WTO ruled that both the FSC and ETI regimes are illegal export subsidies. The WTO has authorized the EU to impose up to \$4 billion a year in sanctions on U.S. exports unless we repeal the FSC-ETI provisions. Those sanctions are now on Congress' doorstep.

Starting March 1st, the EU will impose 5 percent of the authorized sanctions. The sanctions will increase 1 percent for each month that we do not repeal FSC-ETI. It caps out at 17 percent, at which time the EU will undoubtedly revisit imposing additional sanctions. As a technical matter, however, the EU has the right to impose the full \$4 billion at any time.

The world economy can ill-afford a trade war. Sanctions will undermine the economic recovery that is now underway. This is a very serious threat because the sanctions will fall heavily on agricultural products and manufactured goods. Some dismiss this threat, saying that because sanctions will be phased in during a time when the U.S. dollar is falling, the sanctions are therefore no big deal. Well, I couldn't disagree more. I want clear sailing for U.S. exports. This gambling with sanctions, if true, will bring a stormy environment to our efforts to expand U.S. exports. Gambling with sanctions is tantamount to playing with fire. We need to repeal FSC-ETI now, not later.

FSC-ETI is critical to the manufacturing sector. It can reduce taxes on exports by as much as 3 to 8 tax rate percentage points. The nonpartisan Joint Committee on Taxation says that 89 percent of FSC benefits go to manufacturing companies. Many of those companies are the largest manufacturing employers in the nation.

Repealing FSC-ETI raises around \$55 Billion over 10 years. If that money is not sent back to the manufacturing sector, FSC-ETI repeal will be a \$50 billion tax increase on manufacturing. I think we can all agree that a \$50 billion

tax increase on manufacturing will not stimulate job growth in that sector.

The JOBS bill passed by the Finance Committee uses all the money from FSC-ETI repeal to give a 3 tax rate percentage point cut on all income derived from manufacturing on U.S. soil. Unlike the FSC-ETI regime, this 3 point rate reduction applies to goods manufactured in the U.S. and which are sold domestically in America or exported for sale outside the U.S. If it's made in the U.S.A., then taxes are cut under our bill. The JOBS bill starts phasing in the 3 point tax rate percentage cut this year, in 2004.

Unlike other proposals, the Finance Committee's bill extends the manufacturing rate cut to all manufacturers in America, regardless of size. It is not limited to just the largest corporations in America. The Finance Committee's JOBS bill covers sole proprietors, partnerships, family-owned S corporations, and foreign-owned companies that make products in the U.S. This is only fair, because S corporations and partnerships are eligible to receive a reduced rate of tax under the current ETI provisions. Other proposals would exclude these small businesses from the manufacturing rate cut. In short, if you make it here, we give you a tax break.

We even included a provision for manufacturers that are not making money right now. We allow a 3 year net operating loss carryback, which will allow companies to reclaim prior taxes paid. This will give them cash liquidity to weather the current storm.

It is important to note that the JOBS bill's 3 tax rate percentage point reduction simply levels the playing field between U.S. and EU companies. The Tax Foundation has found that the U.S. effective marginal corporate tax rate for the manufacturing sector is 3 points higher than the average manufacturing effective marginal tax rate in the EU.

Similarly, the National Association of Manufacturers claims that our corporate tax burden is “heavier than in eight or our nine largest trading partners.”

Flaws in our international tax rules seriously undermine America’s ability to compete in the global marketplace. International reform is long overdue. Our current system is based on a framework enacted during President Kennedy’s administration. In an era of expanding global markets, falling trade barriers, and technological innovations that melt away traditional notions of national borders, it is critical that our international tax laws keep pace with new business realities.

The JOBS bill includes international tax reforms that directly benefit manufacturers. We reform Subpart F to ensure that active foreign business activities are taxed when the money is brought home, and not when U.S. companies are locked in battle with foreign competitors who don’t pay taxes. We clean up problems that cause foreign earnings to be double taxed by both the U.S. and the foreign country where the profits are earned. Our bill focuses mostly on problems in the foreign tax credit area, and foreign tax credits are only a benefit when the foreign earnings are coming back to the U.S. So our bill should help companies bring the money home for investing and upgrading their U.S. operations.

Another measure that was added to bring the money home is the Homeland Reinvestment Act, which has bipartisan support. This measure is designed to encourage companies to bring their foreign earnings back to the United States by temporarily providing a reduced rate of tax of 5 1/4 percent, instead of the 35 percent that normally applies.

President Bush has asked that any legislation replacing FSC-ETI be budget neutral. We have responded to his call. The JOBS bill is revenue neutral. The bill provides over \$112 billion in business tax relief which is paid for by extending Customs Service user fees, shutting down tax shelters and corporate inversions, ending abusive lease-back schemes that allow corporations to depreciate the county courthouse, and enacting measures to end the Enron tax loop-holes.

Like all bills, there is never complete agreement on an approach. For example, our bill contains a temporary limit on the 3 rate percentage point reduction which applies only to multinational manufacturers. Some members would like to eliminate this limit and other members

would like to permanently extend it.

Some members prefer a reduction in the top corporate rate in place of the international reforms and manufacturing rate cut. I understand the desire for this simpler approach to cutting taxes, but this approach misses a couple of important considerations.

First, a top-level rate cut would only go to the biggest corporations in America. It would not go to your local family-held S corporation or partnerships that currently receive ETI benefits. It wouldn’t even extend to regular corporations that are small in size. In contrast, the Finance Committee’s JOBS bill cuts taxes for all businesses that manufacture on U.S. soil, regardless of their size or type.

Secondly, FSC-ETI repeal will not create a large tax increase on the services and financial industries, but repeal without a manufacturing rate cut would be tantamount to a \$50 billion tax increase on manufacturing. If we redirect FSC-ETI repeal money to an across the board corporate tax cut, then the tax increase on the manufacturing sector will become a revenue offset for the tax cuts enjoyed by the services and financial sectors. While I am all for reducing taxes, I do not believe it wise to engage in a tax-shifting shell game that would yield a tax increase on an already beleaguered manufacturing industry.

I believe it is important for the U.S. to fulfill its obligations under our trading rules. We win more cases than we lose, and we must show leadership in complying with these rules. I hope my Senate colleagues and our counterparts in the House of Representatives will act quickly on the Finance Committee’s FSC-ETI legislation. If we fail to act, American workers will suffer with fewer jobs and the United States will lose an opportunity to rejuvenate and remain globally competitive in a mainstay of its economy.

We should no longer tolerate this crisis in manufacturing. Working families are living in financial fear. We owe a secure future to these hard-working men and women. For them to have a secure future, their employers must be able to compete and thrive, both at home and abroad. Their employers cannot thrive if they are burdened with excessive tax rates at home and international tax barriers abroad. Our bipartisan JOBS bill presents the best opportunity to end that burden and to make a down payment on putting America back to work.



A crew secures crates filled with American goods for shipping abroad.

SENATOR GRASSLEY IS THE CHAIRMAN OF THE SENATE FINANCE COMMITTEE, AND SERVES ON THE SENATE AGRICULTURE, NUTRITION & FORESTRY, BUDGET, JUDICIARY, AND JOINT TAXATION COMMITTEES. MR. GRASSLEY WAS FIRST ELECTED TO CONGRESS IN 1980.

Financial Aid & Taxpayer Privacy

REP. SAM JOHNSON

A well-read Dallas magazine recently announced that 14 high schools serving the students of the Third Congressional District ranked among the 50 best in the region. No doubt about it—North Texas is home to smart students, great teachers, involved parents, and top schools—a wonderful recipe for success.

Many of these top-notch schools boast a sky-high percentage of students who pursue higher education. However, for some young people, serious financial strains put out of reach anything above a high school diploma.

Sadly, while there IS more financial aid money to go around, numerous hurdles, fraud, and bureaucracy have kept that money from deserving students.

In fact, a recent study of applications filed during fiscal years 2001 and 2002 found that the Department of Education M-I-S-S-P-E-N-T \$602 million in Pell Grants to people who were either ineligible or eligible for smaller awards.

The General Accounting Office has confirmed that this substantial misallocation of resources could be corrected if Congress would redesign the law that governs sharing of information between the Department of Education and the Internal Revenue Service.

That's why I proposed the Student Aid Streamlined Disclosure Act, H.R. 3613. The Act ensures that financial aid goes to those who need it most, all the



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while protecting taxpayer privacy during the student aid process.

The current process used to verify income information for student loans is unnecessarily invasive, ineffective, and inefficient. My bill would strengthen Pell Grants and needs-based student loans while cracking down on fraud.

The proposal would provide for income verification for every financial aid application, but it would require disclosure of personal information on file with the Internal Revenue Service only in cases where the discrepancy is large enough to impact the student aid.

Sensitive tax information from the IRS could not be disclosed directly to schools or contractors, but ONLY could be disclosed to Department of Education officials or to the taxpayer who filed the return.

This year, the Department of Education anticipates that more than 13 million people will apply for federal student aid. To verify income information, at least 4 million of these applicants will be selected and required to hand over detailed tax information to school administrators with few controls in place to guard against re-disclosure or misuse of this highly personal information. In addition, nearly 100,000 people will be required to waive their right to taxpayer privacy as a condition of apply-

ing for an income-contingent student aid.

Numerous studies by the Department of Education and the Education Inspector General concluded that income information supplied by some students does not match information on file with the IRS.

Fortunately, I have the unique opportunity to make a real difference as the highest-ranking Texan on both of the Committees responsible for this legislation. Serving on the Ways and Means Committee and the Education and the Workforce Committee will help me move this bill through Congress.

But I can't do it alone. I need your help. This legislation is just a starting-off point. I ask any stakeholders — students, parents, schools, lenders and loan processors — to review this legislation to be sure that there are no unintended consequences of the bill. I welcome constructive criticism of this proposal and look forward to seeing it enacted this year.

To view a copy of this legislation, visit thomas.loc.gov and type in the bill number H.R. 3613.

I hope you find this bill represents a keen balance of educational opportunity, smarter government and taxpayer privacy.

These are values we want to pass on to today's students for brighter tomorrows.



A dedicated teacher walks a student through a difficult math problem.

REPRESENTATIVE JOHNSON SERVES ON THE HOUSE EDUCATION & WORKFORCE AND WAYS & MEANS COMMITTEES. MR. JOHNSON HAS SERVED IN CONGRESS SINCE 1998.

The Congressman and the Food Fight

REP. RIC KELLER

The idea of lawsuits against fast-food restaurants from overweight customers who blame the industry for making meals that are just too tasty sounds ridiculous to most clear-thinking, reasonable people.

But unfortunately, "clear-thinking" and "reasonable" are words that don't always accurately describe the powerful industry of trial lawyers and those that eagerly do their bidding here in Congress.

The largest employer in the private sector is the restaurant industry, providing jobs to over 12 million Americans. And the prospect of restaurants being forced to spend millions upon millions of dollars to defend themselves from frivolous lawsuits is anything but ridiculous.

There is a real and present danger of an uncontrollable avalanche of frivolous lawsuits against restaurants, pizza parlors, public schools, grocery stores, and companies that make ice cream, soft drinks, and cookies. Of course, the consequences of these lawsuits against the food industry are that consumers would pay a higher price in restaurants and grocery stores for food costs.

In a country like the United States, freedom of choice is cherished. No one is forced to super-size their fast food meals. Similarly, no one is forced to sit in front of the television all day like a couch potato instead of going for a walk or taking a bike ride.

I have a choice to make when I visit my favorite fast food restaurant. Do I order the triple cheeseburger and ice cream sundae? Or do I order the grilled



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chicken salad and Diet Coke? Obviously, my waistline tells you which choice I make more often. But that's the point — it's my decision to make.

Eating habits and exercise are a matter of personal responsibility and common sense. It shouldn't take a lawsuit for people to figure out that if you eat unlimited amounts of hot dogs, fries and milkshakes you're probably going to gain some serious weight.

Indeed, lawsuits have already been brought against McDonald's, Burger King, Wendy's, KFC, and Kraft/Nabisco, with additional lawsuits threatened against the makers of ice cream. The lawsuits filed in New York against McDonald's were brought by a 400-pound, 15-year-old boy, and a 272 lb, 56-year-old man, named Ceasar Barber. Mr. Barber appeared on the CBS TV show, 60 Minutes. He had this to say:

"I want compensation for pain and suffering."

The 60 Minutes Correspondent followed up. "How much money do you want?"

Mr. Barber's answer? "Maybe \$1 million. That's not a lot of money now."

I've written legislation being considered in Congress called "The Personal Responsibility in Food Consumption Act" that in a nutshell says you can't blame the food industry if you gorge yourself on pizza and chips and then face problems associated with obesity. More specifically, my legislation provides that a seller or maker of lawful food products shall not be subject to civil liability where the claim is premised upon individual's weight gain resulting from the consumption of food.

This is a narrowly drawn, measured piece of legislation. It doesn't immunize the food industry. This bill only applies to obesity-related claims - that is, to claims based on "weight gain" or "obesity." That means that lawsuits can go forward under the bill if, for example, some-

(Continued on page 18 - Food Fight)



It's your decision and yours alone if you wish to eat a juicy, succulent cheeseburger such as this.

How Alaska Can Help Meet America's Energy Needs

SEN. LISA MURKOWSKI

The United States is facing critical shortages in natural gas in the months and years to come; just ask Alan Greenspan. America also is facing continued dwindling production of petroleum. We now import nearly 60 percent of the oil we consume daily to heat our homes, fuel our delivery trucks, run our autos and fly our aircraft.

It is incongruous that America, which developed the first commercial oil well in the foothills of Pennsylvania just 145 years ago this summer, has become so resistant to policies that could make this country less dependent on foreign energy, policies that could increase our national and economic security and employment while reducing our balance of payments deficit.

What makes American policy especially perplexing is that this nation can increase its domestic production of energy without destroying the beauty of our land, our wildlife or the quality of our air or water, while actually helping the global environment. That is because since America has the highest environmental standards in the world, each barrel of oil or cubic foot of gas produced here relieves the pressure for new development under weaker environmental regulations elsewhere, such as the tropical rainforests of Colombia or the offshore waters of the South China Sea. Each unit of energy produced in America means fewer foreign-built and foreign-crewed tankers crossing the oceans, navigating our shorelines and entering crowded harbors to deliver their cargoes in single-hulled tankers.

It is long past time that Americans look anew at the benefits that increased domestic gas and oil production will mean. That is especially the case given recent technological advances that allow energy to be produced while fully protecting our natural treasures.

NATURAL GAS

Take natural gas for an example. As Federal Reserve Chairman Alan Greenspan testified last spring, while new technology has doubled our success rate at finding gas, American demand for the clean-burning fuel is outstripping the nation's ability to find sufficient supplies, draining U.S. reservoirs faster than ever before. Greenspan warned that rising prices are unavoidable—with their impacts on the nation's economy -- unless more gas is produced. He noted that using imported liquefied natural gas is an "imperfect solution" for environmental and potentially for economic reasons.



SEN. LISA MURKOWSKI (AL)
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Gas heats over 50 percent of existing homes and 70 percent of new homes, is one of the main feed stocks for plastics and petrochemicals, and is one of the main components for the fertilizer used in agriculture. In addition, natural gas is one of the best sources of hydrogen—the fuel of the future touted by President Bush. Then there are the gas-fired power plants keeping the lights on and our computers running. With the cost of gas on the rise, food, plastics, electricity and heat all cost more.

Some estimate that America in the next decade may be facing deficits of between 10 and 20 billion cubic feet of natural gas a day. That is partially because for too long America has restricted access to public, potentially gas-rich lands, reducing the market's ability to find new gas. It is also because some known gas reserves have been prevented from reaching market. The best example of this comes from my home state of Alaska.

Alaska is home to 35 trillion cubic feet of proven gas in the existing Prudhoe Bay oil field. The area probably holds triple that amount in additional reserves. But for decades that gas has been trapped in the ground awaiting construction of an economic pipeline project to bring it to market. Producers have proposed construction of a pipeline that would follow a "southern" route along the Alaska-Canada Highway to the Lower 48 States. This is the safest and most environmentally responsible route because the land already has been disturbed along the existing

highway. A proposed alternative to pipe gas under the ocean floor of the Beaufort Sea is not acceptable, in

Jobs To Be Produced by Construction of Alaska Natural Gas Pipeline							
Opening of Arctic Coastal Plain to Oil-Gas Production							
State	AIWR Jobs*	Gas line Jobs	Total Jobs**	State	AIWR Jobs*	Gas line Jobs*	Total Jobs**
Alaska	162,066	172,369	334,435	Montana	690	734	1,424
Alabama	3,105	3,302	6,407	Nebraska	4,135	4,399	8,534
Arkansas	3,798	4,040	7,838	Nevada	346	367	713
Arizona	4,144	4,408	8,552	New Hampshire	1,379	1,466	2,845
California	152,985	162,721	315,706	New Jersey	19,090	20,046	39,136
Colorado	15,195	16,163	31,358	New Mexico	2,763	2,938	5,701
Connecticut	4,830	5,136	9,966	New York	45,239	48,117	93,356
Delaware	1,726	1,835	3,561	North Carolina	8,617	9,547	18,164
District Col.	1,726	1,835	3,561	North Dakota	690	734	1,424
Florida	13,122	13,957	27,079	Ohio	13,122	13,951	27,079
Georgia	19,257	20,483	39,740	Oklahoma	27,917	23,142	51,059
Hawaii	1,379	1,466	2,845	Oregon	11,202	12,019	23,221
Idaho	4,135	4,398	8,533	Pennsylvania	69,702	73,467	142,539
Illinois	19,678	20,931	40,609	Rhode Island	1,031	1,097	2,128
Indiana	6,556	6,973	13,529	South Carolina	5,872	6,243	12,115
Iowa	3,798	4,040	7,838	South Dakota	690	734	1,424
Kansas	4,830	5,136	9,966	Tennessee	4,830	5,136	9,966
Kentucky	3,451	3,672	7,123	Texas	264,413	287,622	552,035
Louisiana	18,299	19,464	37,763	Utah	7,935	8,438	16,373
Maine	1,031	1,097	2,128	Vermont	690	734	1,424
Maryland	5,871	6,245	12,116	Virginia	6,907	7,346	14,253
Massachusetts	9670	10,285	19,955	Washington	67,691	71,998	139,089
Michigan	11,742	12,489	24,231	West Virginia	4,489	4,775	9,264
Minnesota	7,597	8,081	15,678	Wisconsin	7,287	8,816	16,103
Mississippi	1,726	1,835	3,561	Wyoming	1,031	1,097	2,128
Missouri	7,943	8,448	16,391				
				Totals	1,074,640	1,135,778	2,210,418

* Combines both direct and indirect jobs

** Employment at peak production from both projects.

* Source: National Defense Council Foundation Study, Fall 2003

part, because of environmental concerns. Another proposal to liquefy some of the gas at tidewater for export to the West Coast would compliment the highway route and help diversify our infrastructure.

The southern pipeline project's design and financing costs are staggering. In the last three years gas producers have spent over \$125 million just to evaluate the project. Actual design and permitting could cost another \$750 million, and that is before construction machinery touches the ground. The 3,500-mile span of pipe will consume over 5 million tons of steel, require the largest gas handling facility of its kind in the world, and rival the Great Wall of China in length. In short, it will be the largest private sector project ever undertaken.

Wages to construct the project are expected to exceed a whopping \$5 billion, while over 400,000 new direct and indirect jobs nationwide will be created, meaning this project is its own economic growth package. A recent study by the National Defense Council Foundation found that

the pipeline project will fuel 1.14 million jobs nationwide, about 160,000 of them in California and 72,000 in Washington State. More importantly, the project will deliver 4.5 billion cubic feet of gas per day to hungry consumers in the Lower 48.

In an effort to get Alaska's gas to market, Congress last fall agreed on provisions in the comprehensive energy bill to help lower the project's estimated cost of nearly \$20 billion, so that the private sector can afford to build the line. At \$20 billion, the line could strain the financial resources of Wall Street. Mechanisms are needed to ensure the pension and retirement funds that may be invested in this project are protected in the unlikely event gas prices crash; that's good for our seniors who rely on those funds for retirement. To help mitigate the risks Congress is proposing some straightforward fiscal "enablers" to encourage the markets to get involved.

The first piece is a loan guarantee similar to those provided for other important industries. The second includes accelerated tax depreciation and quicker capital recovery of related-gas infrastructure, similar to what's proposed for other pipelines in the Lower 48. Last is a tax credit to defray the cost of building a needed "conditioning" plant



Sen. Murkowski discusses the importance of meeting our energy needs while helping to get Americans back to work.

to clean the gas when it comes out of the ground.

As we wait for the Senate to overcome a filibuster and give final passage to the energy bill, the provisions that could make an Alaska gas line a reality hang in the balance. The longer we wait to get Alaska's gas to market, the more reliant we become on foreign gas. That is bad from both a national security and an economic security point of view. No right thinking policy maker would knowingly cause America to become as dependent on foreign imports of gas as we are today for imported petroleum.

Helping build an Alaska gas pipeline now is the right solution.

ARCTIC OIL

The second step America can take to improve our energy situation is to tap the vast resources of Alaska to reduce our reliance on imported oil from often unstable areas of the world. Alaska contains a fifth of the nation's known oil reserves and the potential for incredible oil reserves to be under a tiny portion of the 19-million-acre Arctic National Wildlife Refuge (ANWR)

According to the Energy Information Administration, there is a 50-50 chance that the 1.5-million-acre coastal plain in the refuge holds about 10 billion barrels of economi-

cally recoverable oil – enough to produce about 1 million barrels a day for 30 years. This is not an inconsequential field. Such a find would be the largest oil field discovered in the world in the past three decades and would equal nearly one-fifth of America's likely domestic

production in 2010. More importantly, chances are good that the field will yield 16 billion barrels – making it America's largest field ever. Equally important, at current prices, it represents \$15 billion a year that we won't have to spend on buying oil overseas.

Producing more energy at home would strengthen our economy by producing jobs and tax revenues here. It would foster our national security in the mid-term by lessening the potential for America to be subject to blackmail from foreign boycotts, or from being forced to fight overseas to protect vital energy



Senator Murkowski discusses the number of jobs that construction of the Alaska Natural Gas Pipeline would create.

sources until alternative technologies emerge. According to the National Defense Council Foundation study, Arctic oil development will produce another 1.1 million jobs nationwide in all 50 States, an important factor as we seek job opportunities in our improving national economy. According to a study by Wharton Econometrics Forecasting Associates, the oil development would raise the nation's gross national product by at least \$50.4 billion.

Arctic oil production also would benefit the federal treasury. According to estimates, the government will gain nearly \$6 billion a year in taxes and royalties when the likely oil field is in full production – the treasury gaining an estimated \$29.2 billion in new taxes and royalties in just the first 15 years of new Arctic oil production.

Allowing more oil development in Alaska also would honor the promises Congress thrice made to my state, first at Statehood, slightly later in 1960 when President Dwight Eisenhower created the Arctic Wildlife Range, and most recently in 1980 when 131 million acres of Alaska was withdrawn as parks and refuges. Each time, Congress specifically permitted oil development to take place on the coastal plain, unless such development would harm Alaska's environment.

And the truth is that it won't. According to the recent environmental impact statement for reauthorization of the Trans-Alaska oil pipeline, less than 1 percent of the vegetation of the Arctic coastal plain likely will be impacted by future oil development.

Safeguards in congressional legislation will guarantee that no more than 2,000 acres of all the coastal plain in Alaska will be touched. Directional drilling underground allows oil wells to be placed up to 10 miles apart, preventing disturbance to the animals that breed and graze in between. New procedures on seismic work prevent ocean noise when

bowhead whales are passing.

Some worry about the impacts on calving caribou. But Alaska's experience at the nearby Prudhoe Bay oil field, where the caribou herd has grown to 32,000 animals from about 3,000 prior to oil development, shows that caribou not only can tolerate, but flourish in oil fields. That is especially the case since restrictions will prevent any drilling noise during the two months when the caribou might be present.

Some incorrectly cite last year's National Academy of Sciences report as being negative about the effects of development. Actually the report debunks a host of inaccuracies by opponents, confirming there have been no water quality problems caused by oil spills at the existing Prudhoe Bay field, and confirming that new technology can prevent environmental damage. Alaska's beauty is certainly not threatened by limited ANWR development, as 192 million acres of Alaska remain protected forever -- nearly the size of all East Coast states combined.

The truth is that America needs to solve its energy woes by both producing more energy here at home and by conserving energy and developing alternatives to current fossil fuels. That is why the pending energy bill does so much to promote energy efficiency, geothermal, hydroelectric, wind and solar energy and the development of hydrogen cars and fuel cells.

America needs both more oil and access to more natural gas to meet our energy and economic needs in the future. Alaska's energy reserves can help meet the nation's needs, but only if Congress helps to unlock Alaska's energy potential. The sooner it does so, the better.

SENATOR MURKOWSKI SERVES ON THE SENATE ENERGY & NATURAL RESOURCES, ENVIRONMENT & PUBLIC WORKS, INDIAN AFFAIRS, AND VETERANS AFFAIRS COMMITTEES. MS. MURKOWSKI HAS SERVED IN CONGRESS SINCE 2002.

The American Miracle

REP. MIKE OXLEY

America is on the rebound. No other economy in the history of the world could take the setbacks that we have endured and respond with such amazing resilience.

We have overcome the devastation of 9/11, the betrayal of Enron and WorldCom, and the disappointment of the tech bubble, all while fighting the war on terrorism. Even with all of that, we have maintained our position as the world's leading economy.

I am certain that Americans will meet every economic challenge facing us, because that's what we have done throughout our history.



REP. MIKE OXLEY (OH-4)
oxley.house.gov

For most of the last century, there was a battle over which economic system was best—one based on free markets or one based on government control. During the Great Depression, some thought capitalism was fatally flawed. The power of the state was on the rise. Even countries not subjected to communism turned to heavy regulation, nationalizing key industries, and creating welfare states.

Eventually, the weight of the state collapsed on itself. The Soviet Union and its satellites, systems predicated on central planning and oppression, failed. But the West suffered from its own problems. The 1970s brought stagflation, a miserable mix of high inflation and unemployment. State industries were bloated and inefficient. Taxes, subsidies, and over regulation choked off economic growth. People no longer believed government had all the answers.

The powerful ideas of privatization, supply side tax cuts, and free trade made a comeback, first in Great Britain under Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher and then in 1980 in the U.S. with the election of Ronald Reagan as President.

Reagan offered tough medicine, but the American people stayed the course through a difficult recession because they knew his prescription of less government, less spending, and tax cuts would work. I proudly cast my first vote as a freshman congressman in 1981 in favor of the Reagan tax cuts.

By 1983, the economy had turned toward prosperity. In his Farewell Address to the nation, the President told the story of an economic summit that year, when one of the world leaders turned to him and said, "Tell us about the American miracle."

The American miracle is really common sense economics. What's miraculous, though, is that we actually put those ideas into practice, which is hard to do.

Thanks also to Reagan's defense policies, communism fell and countries embraced capitalism, equating it with freedom. During the 1990s, a global economy based on free enterprise and trade blossomed. The U.S. was and is the dominant economic power and beneficiary of open markets.

The expansion of free enterprise and open markets is changing the world. Nations that are part of the international trading system generally have higher standards of living. To bring investment to a country, business demands a stable set of laws, transparent finances, safeguards against corruption, and openness. Freedom and democracy go along with that or aren't far behind. Ironi-

cally, the financial markets are bringing about reform through investment that the United Nations could never achieve through diplomacy.

Technology has made a huge difference. The Internet has made this a much smaller world, allowing companies to operate virtually anywhere. The proliferation of information sources has made it harder for totalitarian societies to enforce censorship.

This hit home for me during the trips I made to China. My first visit came some time after the student uprising at Tiananmen Square. Although China was making progress with economic reforms, it appeared that the hardliners who ordered that crackdown wanted to return to Mao's destructive policies.

But the reforms had deep roots. During my next visit, I met with the Mayor of Shanghai, who sounded like the world's biggest capitalist. China's explosive growth continues to this day.

While we have many issues with China, it seems to me that continued engagement with a market of 1.3 billion people is the most productive approach. I met a young Chinese woman who had been educated at Brown University, and she was working for AT&T in China. She told me that her dream had always been to be educated in the United States, then return home, work for an American company, and build a new China.

Some look at China and ask if the U.S. can compete in the global economy. We can, because we have an innate ability to adapt to new conditions. Our economy is more agile than ever. I offer the following five reasons for our enduring economic resilience.

A first principle is sound economic policy – having a clear understanding of the proper role between government and the private sector. Tax policy is important. If you look at President Bush's two tax cuts, the package in 2001 came just in time and prevented the turndown caused



Skyscrapers are stunning reminders of how powerful the "American miracle" can be.

by the horrible terrorist attacks of 9/11 from getting worse. The 2003 tax cuts sparked third quarter growth that was the best in twenty years.

Wise monetary policy fits in here. We've been fortunate to have knowledgeable stewards in Federal Reserve Board Chairman Alan Greenspan and, before him, Paul Volcker. They've made informed decisions on interest rates that have helped to keep inflation low.

A second factor is deregulation and privatization. We have now had more than two decades of experience with deregulation, starting with airlines, trains, and trucking and moving to energy, telecommunications, and financial services. A joint Brookings Institution/Mercatus Center study found that consumers have saved from 10 to 25 percent from the deregulation of network industries, and the array of new services is astounding.

Perfect markets don't develop overnight. Sometimes government compounds the problem with poor policy, like the failed electricity restructuring law in California. There are those who long for a return to the days of command-and-control. But I don't think consumers really want to give up the services and savings that have come from competition.

A third bedrock of a resilient economy is trade, which lifts economies and promotes freedom. Exports are deeply ingrained into our economy. Twenty-five percent of our recent growth has come from exports. One in five jobs in the U.S. is now export-related, and they pay 13 to 18 percent higher wages than the norm. The choices created by trade save the average consumer as much as \$2,000 annually.

Until the recent approval of Trade Promotion Authority, the U.S. was in danger of slipping. The Europeans were sealing more trade deals, securing holds in established markets that we might not have been able to break.

Long known for its manufacturing prowess, my home state of Ohio is the sixth largest exporting state, shipping \$28 billion worth of goods overseas in 2002. Its two largest markets are our partners in NAFTA, Canada and Mexico. Ohio has also done well in attracting major international investment, as evidenced by the 13,000 people that Honda directly employs at its factories.

A fourth reason for our economic agility is our affinity for technology and innovation. We're always willing to experiment with new and more efficient technologies, from the assembly line to e-commerce.

Wal-Mart gained its edge by using computers to track inventory. Factories have cut their costs through just-in-time manufacturing. Chairman Greenspan has said that growth in productivity is one reason why the U.S. has been able to sustain a long period of both low inflation and low interest rates. While higher productivity can temporarily curb job creation, it's essential for lasting prosperity.

We ultimately succeed because of the entrepreneurial skills of our people. America is a country where great software companies do begin in a garage, and where talented people take great risks. It's not easy to teach that, but it's always been part of our society. It starts with a basic belief in the power of freedom.

There is a fifth and final principle of economic resiliency, the ability of our system to reform, move forward, solve problems, and become more efficient.

America would never allow itself to sink in quicksand like the German economy or get bogged down by bad bank loans like Japan. The recent corporate scandals provide an example.

Investors simply would not stand for fraudulent reporting and accounting in publicly traded corporations that caused livelihoods and retirement accounts to suddenly disintegrate. They wouldn't tolerate rosy scenario analysis that was designed to sell stock shares. And so, Congress passed the Sarbanes-Oxley Act which has, I hope, contributed to the renewed sense of investor confidence and economic growth.

Sarbanes-Oxley is a classic example of compromise within the legislative process. Senator Paul Sarbanes (D-MD) and I came from very different backgrounds and political beliefs. But guided by the processes outlined in the Constitution, we were able to come together and produce a law raising the bar for corporate accountability in our nation.

So when I'm asked about the economy, I am optimistic. There is no denying that some of the changes taking place in the world economy right now are unsettling. While we have gained jobs from globalization, we have also lost some. But the solution isn't what the WTO protestors did in Seattle, which was to trash the Starbucks coffee shop and call for protectionism.

There are things we can immediately do to improve our own competitiveness. Regulations, lawsuits, outdated work rules, and health and energy expenses add about 22 percent to U.S. manufacturing costs. Look at the asbestos

mess. According to a RAND study, the cost to U.S. businesses due to asbestos litigation was estimated at \$54 billion at the end of 200 and could grow by another \$210 billion. Yet only about \$4 out of every \$10 awarded has actually gone to victims.

The media does not always do a good job of providing our citizens with a thorough understanding of how the free enterprise system works. I remain puzzled by those who claim to be for employment but against the businesses that provide it.

We must be mindful that the biggest threat to the development of a peaceful and free world economy is terrorism. 9/11 was an attack on our people, our land, our economic system, and the values of a civilized world. It was, and is, war.

I went to Ground Zero only about three weeks after the attacks, with more than 100 of my colleagues. It was unforgettable. I had been in the World Trade Center many times, and now it was a hulking, steaming mass of jagged steel and broken concrete. If the terrorists could get away with this, nothing in our lives or world would be safe again.

The war on terrorism is as important to our economic system, to say nothing of our freedom, as the Cold War was. And like the Cold War, victory will take time and relentless perseverance.

When Ronald Reagan delivered his farewell address, he talked about the resurgence of pride and patriotism in the 1980s. Speaking from the Oval Office for the last time, this great leader said, "This national feeling is good, but it won't count for much and it won't last unless it's grounded in

thoughtfulness and knowledge. An informed patriotism is what we want."

Surely, our patriotism has been informed since the calendar turned on this amazing century. It has been informed by terrible evil, and yet heroism and sacrifice. We learned of fraud and betrayal, but also of reform and renewal.

These have been hard lessons, but we have learned them well.

REPRESENTATIVE OXLEY IS THE CHAIRMAN OF THE HOUSE FINANCIAL RESOURCES COMMITTEE. MR. OXLEY WAS FIRST ELECTED TO CONGRESS IN 1980.

READ THE WHOLE TEXT OF MR. OXLEY'S SPEECH TO THE ASHBROOK CENTER FOR PUBLIC AFFAIRS AT [HTTP://JOHNBOEHNER.HOUSE.GOV/AMERICANSOUND/](http://JOHNBOEHNER.HOUSE.GOV/AMERICANSOUND/)



A work crew breaks ground on a new project that will ultimately create thousands of new jobs.

Reforming Social Security

Vital to Keeping Our Promise to Americans

REP. PAT TOOMEY

Our nation's Social Security program has provided a vital measure of financial security for millions of retirees since its creation. However, this program, in its current form is unsustainable and it will not be able to honor its promises to future generations. Even if it could honor its promises, Social Security offers a poor financial investment for younger workers. Congress must reform Social Security. We should fix its structural flaws and allow younger workers to accumulate wealth and enjoy a financially secure retirement.



REP. PAT TOOMEY (PA-15)
www.house.gov/toomey/

Everyone agrees that the Social Security program is facing a financial crisis. By design, it is a program where no money is ever saved or invested. It is simply a transfer plan with today's workers paying for the benefits of today's retirees. Beginning in about 12 years, the program will begin running a deficit, that is, spending more on retiree benefits than workers will contribute. Once Social Security begins to run deficits, those deficits will grow enormously. According to the Social Security Trustee's report, Social Security has a 75-year revenue shortfall, in present value terms, of \$10.5 trillion, significantly larger than the more well-known national public debt of \$3.5 trillion. This shortfall is caused by three immutable demographic trends in our country: fewer workers per retiree, increased life expectancy, and more workers retiring early.

Because it is unsustainable in its current form, Social Security clearly will not be able to honor its promise to younger generations of Americans. But even if it could somehow honor its commitments, Social Security would force younger workers to suffer losses on their investments into the program.

Under current law, a 30-year-old who earns \$35,000 a year would pay \$285,801 in Social Security taxes during his lifetime. In return, he is promised a monthly benefit that represents a -0.02 rate of return on his investment.

For even younger workers, most African Americans and many working women, the returns are worse. Often, much worse. Why would we force all these workers to pay into a system which offers such meager returns and hasn't the means to deliver even those returns?

Fortunately, there is a reform idea which can dramatically reduce the program's financial shortfall while allowing younger workers to earn substantially higher rates of return. The idea is to give younger workers the opportunity to place a portion of the payroll taxes they already pay into personally-owned, professionally-managed, government-supervised investment accounts. Participation in this plan should be voluntary, but a quick look at the numbers shows that most workers would jump at the chance.

Take the example of the 30-year-old worker above. If he were able to invest just half the Social Security payroll tax he currently pays into personal accounts, and if he invested that equally in stocks and bonds that grow at a combined rate of just 5 percent, then the worker would amass \$410,750 in savings. If he purchased an annuity with those savings, his monthly benefit would be \$3,346, which is 50 percent more than he would receive through Social Security. Alternatively, he could purchase an annuity equal to what Social Security is promising and have more than \$100,000 left over. He then could use that money to open a new business, purchase a vacation home, continue investing, or save it for his heirs.

Solving the looming funding crisis and offering younger workers the opportunity to accumulate savings should be reason enough to reform Social Security, but there is another important reason: allowing younger workers to have greater independence in their retirement. No longer would retirees be dependent on politicians for their retirement security. They would own substantial savings and/or annuities that no politician could ever take from them.

Our nation simply cannot afford not to reform Social Security, and the pending retirement of Baby Boomers demands that Congress makes these vital reforms soon. Done correctly, Social Security reform can be the most empowering, pro-freedom, pro-economic growth act government can make in our lifetimes.

"EVEN IF IT COULD HONOR ITS PROMISES, SOCIAL SECURITY OFFERS A POOR FINANCIAL INVESTMENT FOR YOUNGER WORKERS."

REPRESENTATIVE TOOMEY SERVES ON THE HOUSE BUDGET, FINANCIAL SERVICES, AND SMALL BUSINESS COMMITTEES. MR. TOOMEY WAS FIRST ELECTED TO CONGRESS IN 1998.

(Continued from page 5 - Value of Free Trade...)

The NAFTA success story provides us with an example of trade liberalization that we should put to use in even more regions around the world, fostering the free market values that will strengthen the world economy.

We can start in our immediate neighborhood. As a member of the President's Export Council, I am proud to support the United States-Central America Free Trade Agreement (CAFTA), which marks a significant step towards the expansion of free trade in Latin America. In 2002, the United States exported \$9 billion in goods to the five Central American countries, about the same as our exports to Russia, India and Indonesia, countries which have a combined population more than forty times larger than the total population of the Latin American CAFTA countries.

The immediate benefits of CAFTA are clear. More than 80 percent of U.S. exports of consumer and industrial goods will become duty-free immediately in Central America - Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras and Nicaragua - with remaining tariffs phased out over 10 years. More than half of current U.S. farm exports to Central America will become duty-free immediately. And CAFTA will ensure that state-of-the-art protections and non-discriminatory treatment will be provided for digital products such as software, text, music and videos from the United States.

Last year, the Senate approved free trade agreements with Chile and Singapore. This year, I believe we should make it a priority to approve the free trade agreement with Australia. Two-way trade between the United States and Australia is \$28 billion annually, and this new agreement will remove duty fees for all American agricultural exports. It will also allow a 99 percent of American manufactured goods to enter Australia duty free - the most significant

immediate reduction of industrial tariffs ever included in a free trade agreement.

Beyond trade, these countries have been valuable partners in the war on terrorism. Australia contributed combat troops to liberate the Iraqi people from the iron grip of Saddam Hussein, and the Central American countries have worked to prevent criminals, drug traffickers and terrorists from using the region as a transit point on the way to the United States.

I believe that the Congress should not delay in ratifying CAFTA or the Australian free trade agreement. Agreements that remove unnecessary barriers to the free market are good for America, and it is in our national interest to have a prosperous Central America and Australia—and these policies will result in greater political stability, advancement of legitimate businesses, and expanded markets for American exports.

We have seen how free trade in international markets can benefit us with more jobs and opportunities for Americans—and I believe we will see it even more in the future. Yet I believe that there are greater principles and possibilities here than just the pro-consumer, pro-business aspect to free trade.

As Calvin Coolidge, arguably one of the most pro-market leaders in American history, once pointed out: "Prosperity is only an instrument to be used, not a deity to be worshipped."

President Coolidge was speaking to America's domestic policy at the time, but I believe that his words hold true today on our foreign policy front. Just as the constant spread of democracy around the world ought to be an end - not just a means - of our foreign policy, so too should our support of free markets be recognized for its value in encouraging a world that is not just wealthy in prosperity, but in

peace.

Economic growth brought about by free trade and free markets creates new jobs and raises incomes. This growth lifts people out of poverty even as it spurs positive economic reform. Free trade supports sustainable development and strengthens private property rights while encouraging competition, transparency, regional integration, the open flow of technology and the rule of law. And a strong world economy based on free trade and transparency advances not only the prosperity of nations, but the cause of peace and liberty around the world.

As we confront an enemy set against civilization itself, disparate from other foes we have faced in its nature but equally terrible in its purpose, we must remain cognizant of the fact that our national security is not just defended by the force of arms, but by the force of ideas. Free market principles, advanced as a component of democratic globalism, have the power to create a world where there is no place for these villains to hide undetected, a world where terror has no sponsors.

Let us work towards that aspiration with renewed dedication, by placing the principles of free trade and free markets at the forefront of our American agenda.

**SENATOR CORNYN SERVES ON THE SENATE
JUDICIARY, ARMED SERVICES, ENVIRONMENT
& PUBLIC WORKS, AND BUDGET COMMITTEES.
MR. CORNYN WAS FIRST ELECTED TO
CONGRESS IN 2002.**



**THE
AMERICAN
SOUND
ONLINE**

johnboehner.house.gov/americansound/

(Continued from page 9 - Food Fight)

one gets sick from a tainted hamburger. In such case, the claim would not be injury due to weight gain from eating too many hamburgers over time, but rather a claim for injury due to eating a contaminated hamburger. This legislation doesn't preclude suits for false advertising, mislabeling of food, adulterated food or injuries from food consumption.

The trial lawyers are on the hunt for the next big tobacco. They stand to gain \$47 billion *in legal fees alone* from suing the restaurant industry. Of course, suing the food industry won't make our country any slimmer but it will make the trial attorney's bank accounts much fatter.

Who's next? A famous trial lawyer recently told one publication that our public schools that allow vending machines will be the next target of the obesity-related lawsuits. Apparently even the explicit labeling on a Diet Pepsi showing "0" calories and "0" carbs is not enough for these cash-strapped public schools to immunize themselves from lawyers trying to make a buck.

Our government needs to resist falling into the same trap. The British Medical Association, for example has advocated a so-called "Twinkie tax" of 17.5 percent on certain foods. It is distinctly un-American to tax industries just because they have deep pockets. Frankly, I say we need to be lowering taxes on Twinkies and turkey sandwiches alike in this country and allow people to make whatever purchases they wish without being penalized.

And who are the food cops who will say what's good for us and what's bad for us? Recent studies have lent credibility to the Atkins Diet, a famous low-carb approach that actually

encourages the consumption of high-fat meats.

So what's the bottom line? There needs to be common sense in the food court, not blaming others in our legal courts.

Richard Simmons, the famous exercise guru, recently said that, "People who bring these lawsuits against the food industry don't need a lawyer, they need a psychiatrist." The American public seems to agree.

In a recent Gallup poll, nine out of ten Americans oppose holding the fast food industry legally responsible for the diet related health problems of overweight individuals.

When being tempted by fattening desserts, The British Medical Association doesn't need to take advice from the liberal wing of their membership advocating taxing certain foods at 17.5 percent. They should instead heed the advice of their country's famous international man of mystery, Austin Powers: "Oh

behave!"

With clogged courthouses seeing out-of-control verdicts being handed down daily, we need laws such as the Personal Responsibility in Food Consumption Act, to make it tougher for lawyers to file frivolous lawsuits.

We need to care about each other more, and sue each other less.

We need to get back to the principles of freedom of choice, common sense, and personal responsibility, and get away from the culture where people try to always play the victim and blame other people for their problems.

We've finally taken a step in the right direction—but what you eat along the way is up to you.

REPRESENTATIVE KELLER SERVES ON THE HOUSE EDUCATION & WORKFORCE AND JUDICIARY COMMITTEES. MR. KELLER WAS FIRST ELECTED TO CONGRESS IN 2000.



BEHIND THE AMERICAN SOUND

CRAFTING A JOURNAL OF AMERICAN IDEAS

REPRESENTATIVE JOHN BOEHNER



REP. JOHN BOEHNER (OH-8)
johnboehner.house.gov

Born in Cincinnati in November 1949 as one of 12 brother and sisters, John Boehner has lived in Southwest Ohio his entire life. He and his wife Debbie have been married for 30 years. They have two daughters – Lindsay and Tricia – and live in the northern Cincinnati suburb of West Chester.

After graduating from Cincinnati's Moeller High School in 1968, John earned a bachelor's degree in marketing from Xavier University in Cincinnati in 1977. Upon his graduation, he accepted a position with Nucite Sales, a small sales business in the packaging and plastics industry, and eventually became president of the firm.

While working in the private sector, John entered the political arena – first serving as Union Township trustee from 1982 to 1984 and then as a representative to the Ohio state legislature from 1984 to 1990.

In 1990, John was elected to represent Ohio's Eighth Congressional District in the United States House of Representatives. His first two terms in the House were marked by several government reform accomplishments – including closing the House bank and uncovering illegal practices at the House post office. As a result of his reform-minded agenda, he was elected to the House Republican leadership after the Republican election victories in 1994.

Currently, John serves as chairman of the House Committee on Education and the Workforce – a title he has held since 2001. As committee chair, he was instrumental in passing President Bush's education reform package into law and continues to work closely with him on education and labor-related initiatives on a variety of issues. In addition to his chairmanship, John also serves as Vice-Chairman of the House Agriculture Committee.

REPRESENTATIVE DEBORAH PRYCE



REP. DEBORAH PRYCE (OH-15)
www.house.gov/pryce/

Since her first election in 1992, Congresswoman Pryce has quickly risen through the ranks in the United States Congress. In addition to serving on the powerful House Rules Committee, Congresswoman Pryce was elected by her colleagues to serve as the Republican Conference Chairman of the 108th Congress, making her the highest-ranking Republican woman to ever serve in the U.S. House of Representatives.

Her leadership and support on issues of importance to the business and manufacturing communities has not gone unnoticed.

During the 107th Congress, Congresswoman Pryce received the NFIB "Guardian of Small Business Award" and SAFE Trust endorsement, scoring 100% on the federation's voting scorecard. She has received similar awards and recognitions from the U.S. Chamber of Commerce (perfect voting record), the National Association of Manufacturers, the American Farm Bureau Federation, the Small Business Survival Committee, and Citizens for a Sound Economy for her support on issues vital to the business community.

Pryce graduated from The Ohio State University in 1973, and earned a law degree at Capital University Law School in 1976, both with honors. Practicing first as a prosecutor, Congresswoman Pryce went on to serve as the presiding judge in the Franklin County Municipal Court, the post from which she resigned to run for Congress in 1992.

Congresswoman Pryce meets regularly with top Leaders in the House and Senate, as well as with President Bush and his Administration. Her seat at the leadership table is invaluable for her constituents in central Ohio and for all Americans who share her common-sense approach to governing.

Pryce lives in Upper Arlington, Ohio with her daughter, Mia. She enjoys reading and is an avid skier.

THE AMERICAN SOUND IS A PROJECT OF REP. JOHN BOEHNER AND REP. DEBORAH PRYCE. ITS PURPOSE IS TO PROPOSE, PROMOTE, AND DEFEND INNOVATIVE AND PRINCIPLED SOLUTIONS TO THE LONG-TERM CHALLENGES FACING THE COUNTRY, WHILE RELYING AND FOCUSING ON TRADITIONAL AMERICAN VALUES: FREEDOM, RESPONSIBILITY, FAITH, & OPPORTUNITY.

THE AMERICAN SOUND



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